



# WASHOE COUNTY

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CM/ACM KS  
Finance LC  
DA JG  
Risk Mgt N/A  
HR N/A  
Other N/A

## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 28, 2015

**DATE:** April 2, 2015  
**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**FROM:** Robert Smith, Animal Services Supervisor  
Phone: 353-8945; email: rasmith@washoecounty.us  
**THROUGH:** Shyanne Schull, Director of Regional Animal Services  
**SUBJECT:** Introduction and first reading of an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 55 by adding provisions creating the Department of Regional Animal Services, creating the position of Director of Regional Animal Services, and specifying the powers and duties of the Director of Regional Animal Services; by revising provisions relating to the animal services center; by making changes to the definition of "animal control officer"; and by clarifying the powers and duties of an animal control officer; and if supported, set the public hearing for second reading and possible adoption of the ordinance on May 12, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. (All Commission Districts).

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### SUMMARY

The Washoe County Commission will introduce and hold the first reading of an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 55, by adding sections relating to the creation of the Department of Regional Animal Services and the position and authority of the Director of Regional Animal Services, and by revising provisions relating to the animal services center and the authority of animal control officers.

**County priority/goals:** Safe, secure and healthy communities; Public participation and open, transparent communication.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

On April 22, 2014 the Board of County Commissioners established Washoe County Regional Animal Services as a stand-alone department.

On June 17, 2014 the Board of County Commissioners authorized initiation of proceedings to amend Washoe County Code (Chapters 5 and 55) related to the creation of the Department of Regional Animal Services.

### BACKGROUND

Washoe County Code Chapter 55 was rewritten to create a unified animal control ordinance which was adopted on June 14, 2005 in accordance with the Interlocal Agreement entered into by Washoe County, the City of Reno and the City of Sparks, to effectuate the consolidation of animal services in the county. In accordance with that Interlocal Agreement and the

AGENDA ITEM # 17

Regional Animal Services, and specifying the powers and duties of the Director of Regional Animal Services; by revising provisions relating to the animal services center; by making changes to the definition of “animal control officer”; and by clarifying the powers and duties of an animal control officer on May 12, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be:

Move to hold an introduction and first reading of an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 55 by adding provisions creating the Department of Regional Animal Services, creating the position of Director of Regional Animal Services, and specifying the powers and duties of the Director of Regional Animal Services; by revising provisions relating to the animal services center; by making changes to the definition of “animal control officer”; and by clarifying the powers and duties of an animal control officer; and, if supported, set the public hearing for second reading and possible adoption of the ordinance on May 12, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

SUMMARY: Amends the Washoe County Code by adding provisions creating the department of regional animal services and the position of director of regional animal services, by revising provisions relating to the animal services center, and by revising provisions relating to the definition of "animal control officer" and the powers and duties of an animal control officer.

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WASHOE COUNTY CODE BY ADDING PROVISIONS CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES, CREATING THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES, AND SPECIFYING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES; BY REVISING PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE ANIMAL SERVICES CENTER; BY MAKING CHANGES TO THE DEFINITION OF "ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER"; AND BY CLARIFYING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF AN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF WASHOE DO ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. Chapter 55 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 4, inclusive, of this ordinance.

SECTION 2.

**55.020 Department of regional animal services: Creation.**

1. The department of regional animal services is hereby created.
2. The department shall be responsible for the operation of the animal services center, field services, enforcement of laws and ordinances pertaining to animals within Washoe County, emergency response in times of disaster, and other functions as may be assigned by the board of county commissioners.

SECTION 3.

**55.021 Director of regional animal services: Creation.**

1. The position of director of regional animal services is hereby created.
2. The director shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners upon recommendation by the county manager.

SECTION 7. Washoe County Code 55.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:

55.040 Animal control officer; powers and duties. An animal control officer ~~of the county~~ shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To enforce all provisions of this chapter and all laws of the state relating to the care, treatment, impoundment and disposal of animals.

2. To possess and administer a controlled substance in accordance with applicable regulations of the state board of pharmacy as specified in NRS 453.375(10).

3. ~~To maintain and keep the animal services center or other place where all animals which are subject to be impounded may be kept, safely held and provided with~~ **provide** sufficient food, water and shelter **for impounded animals at the animal services center or other authorized location.**

4. To take up, impound and safely keep any animal found to be in violation of the provisions of this chapter **and Nevada law.**

5. To collect any costs or charges hereinafter provided in this chapter for the impounding and keeping of any animal; to account for all money received and disbursed; and to keep an accurate record of all animals impounded.

6. To dispose of animals, including by destruction, lawfully impounded in accordance with rules promulgated pursuant to section 55.485 **and Nevada law.**

7. ~~In the performance of his duties, the animal control officer shall have the authority to~~ employ the use of the tranquilizer gun and all other animal control equipment ~~commonly used by other animal control agencies within the state~~ **in the performance of their duties.**

8. **To prepare, sign and serve written citations on persons accused of violating a provision of the Nevada Revised Statutes or the Washoe County Code as it pertains to animals. All citations so issued and served shall comply with the requirements of NRS 171.1773 and NRS 171.17751(5).**

[Business Impact Note: The Board of County Commissioners hereby finds that this ordinance does not impose a direct and significant economic burden upon a business, nor does it directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business.]

Proposed on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

Proposed by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_.

SUMMARY: Amends the Washoe County Code by adding provisions creating the department of regional animal services and the position of director of regional animal services, by revising provisions relating to the animal services center, and by revising provisions relating to the definition of "animal control officer" and the powers and duties of an animal control officer.

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2. The director shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners upon recommendation by the county manager.

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1. To enforce all provisions of this chapter and all laws of the state relating to the care, treatment, impoundment and disposal of animals.

2. To possess and administer a controlled substance in accordance with applicable regulations of the state board of pharmacy as specified in NRS 453.375(10).

3. To provide sufficient food, water and shelter for impounded animals at the animal services center or other authorized location.

4. To take up, impound and safely keep any animal found to be in violation of the provisions of this chapter and Nevada law.

5. To collect any costs or charges hereinafter provided in this chapter for the impounding and keeping of any animal; to account for all money received and disbursed; and to keep an accurate record of all animals impounded.

6. To dispose of animals, including by destruction, lawfully impounded in accordance with rules promulgated pursuant to section 55.485 and Nevada law.

7. To employ the use of the tranquilizer gun and all other animal control equipment in the performance of their duties.

8. To prepare, sign and serve written citations on persons accused of violating a provision of the Nevada Revised Statutes or the Washoe County Code as it pertains to animals. All citations so issued and served shall comply with the requirements of NRS 171.1773 and NRS 171.17751(5).

[Business Impact Note: The Board of County Commissioners hereby finds that this ordinance does not impose a direct and significant economic burden upon a business, nor does it directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business.]

Proposed on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

Proposed by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_.

Passed on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

Vote:

Ayes:

Nays: